

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6679

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, FR

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON CLAUDE LEBEL, NEW
FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND

1. CLAUDE LEBEL, WHO HOLDS THE RANK OF MINISTER PLENI-
POTENTIARY IN THE FRENCH FOREIGN SERVICE, HAS RECENTLY
BEEN APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND. PUBLISHED DATA
STATE THAT LEBEL WAS BORN IN 1914 IN PARIS AND DID
STUDIES IN LAW, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS, OBTAINING A
MASTER'S DEGREE IN LAW, A DIPLOMA OF HIGHER STUDIES IN
PUBLIC LAW AND POLITICAL ECONOMY, AND A DIPLOMA FROM THE
FREE SCHOOL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE.

2. HE BEGAN HIS DIPLOMATIC CAREER AS AN ATTACHE IN
BRUSSELS (1938-1939), FOLLOWED BY SECOND SECRETARY IN
MADRID (1940-41). HIS DIPLOMATIC CAREER WAS INTERRUPTED
BY MILITARY SERVICE, UNTIL HE RESIGNED HIS VICHY
COMMISSION IN 1942 TO WORK EVENTUALLY FOR DE GAULLE'S
COMMISSARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN ALGIERS (1943-1944).
SUBSEQUENT ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDED BUREAU CHIEF AT THE QUAI
FOR TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS (1945-1947), SECOND COUNSELOR
(1947-1949) AND THEN FIRST SECRETARY (1949-1950) IN
LONDON (1950-1955), DESK OFFICER AT THE QUAI FOR CAMBO-
DIAN, LAOTIAN AND VIETNAM AFFAIRS (1956-1957), OFFICE OF
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THE SECRETARY GENERAL (1957-1959), MINISTER-COUNSELOR IN

WASHINGTON (1959-1962), DIRECTOR OF PRESS AND INFORMATION AT THE QUAI (1962-1966), DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AND MALAGASY AFFAIRS (1966-1969), AND AMBASSADOR TO MOROCCO (1970-1973). SINCE 1973, LEBEL HAS BEEN ON ASSIGNMENT AT THE QUAI WHERE HE HAS UNDERTAKEN SPECIAL MISSIONS INCLUDING LEADING THE FRENCH DELEGATION TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME IN NOVEMBER 1974.

3. LEBEL HAS BEEN VERY FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL IN HIS DEALINGS WITH THE EMBASSY. HE SPEAKS PERFECT ENGLISH AND HAS IMPRESSED EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO HAVE DEALT WITH HIM AS AN INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE AND COMPETENT DIPLOMAT WHOSE GENERAL VIEWS ARE SOUND.

4. LEBEL IS MARRIED AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN
RUSH

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